



December 3, 2023 — Advent, Week 1

At Home Bulletin

WELCOME and ADVENT READING

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For He has visited and redeemed his people!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 111

INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around a glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,

Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see;

Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee

Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

John Bacchus Dykes | Reginald Heber © Public Domain

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
all that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.

She hath suffered many a day now her griefs have passed away;

God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.

O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;

let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;

and all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 167. Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;

Music: Louis Bourgeois. Arr. Henry Bruinsma, 1990.

GOD'S LAW AND OUR CONFESSION

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first
commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as
yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the
Prophets." *Matthew 22:37-40*

Most holy and merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you

with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our minds;

Nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

Of this, we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us so that by your Holy Spirit

we may delight in your law, and love you more perfectly.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities.

What has Christ done?

All things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Why should we follow Christ?

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

-Adapted from Colossians 1:15-20 & Hebrews 1:1-4

CHILDREN'S SERMON

RECEPTION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood; Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Liturgy of St. James, 5th Century; Adapted by Gerard Moultrie, 1864; PICARDY, French Melody 17th Century, Arr. By Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:1-25

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Too Much for Words"

Pastor Ian Hard

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

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CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

If you are following along at home, please refrain from taking Communion as it is a form of worship meant to be celebrated in the physical presence of the body of Christ.

MERCY OFFERING

HYMN OF SENDING

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven feed me now and evermore;
bread of heaven feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer be thou still my strength and shield,
strong deliv'rer be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises I will ever give to thee,
songs of praises I will ever give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; Tune: Jeremy Casella

BENEDICTION

Sermon NOTES: Too Much for Words

Waiting with Expectation in Light of...

God's Faithfulness

God's Power

God's Grace